

MAKE IT EASY ON YOURSELF

i loved gandhi and felt it deserved its major awards, but i thought some of the technical oscars should have gone to films more challenging in those areas. das boot, for instance, must have presented enormous problems to the cinematographer. and when gandhi won best costuming, i said to my wife, "they should have sent a representative from percale sheets to accept it." of course, she pretended not to have heard me, so i said, a little louder, "someone from the wamsutta fabric company should have been around to pick up that costuming award."

"it wasn't funny the first time," she said.

i was sorry she'd acknowledged me so quickly. i could have milked that particular wisecrack through an infinity of variations.

ONE MAN'S POISON

i heard that a self-styled religious student had lodged a complaint about having been allegedly forced to read the allegedly "pornographic passages" of doris lessing's golden notebook in a twentieth century english lit class.

it was only those passages got me through the book.

THE WALDEN/WOODSTOCK APARTMENTS

thoreau was right about the majority of mankind leading lives of quiet desperation.

the problem with my neighbors is that they are not even quiet about it.